

ABSTRACT

The specification discloses a method and related system that allows hardware devices to participate in the coherency domain of a computer system. More particularly, hardware devices such as network interface cards, audio cards, input/output cards, and the like, are allowed to participate on at least a limited basis in the coherency domain by having cache memory that duplicates a FIFO buffer in main memory used to exchange information between software and the hardware. To exchange information, software writes to the FIFO buffer which invalidates the data in the cache-type memory of the hardware device, and the invalidation message acts to notify the hardware device of the availability of information in the FIFO buffer.

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